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The Turtle and the Raccoon

One warm day, a turtle walked down the road very slowly. A raccoon caught sight of him from his hole and thought that the turtle would be a wonderful afternoon snack. Turtles are considered a great delicacy among raccoons because they are so hard to kill with their thick shells.



The raccoon came out of his hole. “Why do you have such a heavy shell? That is why you turtles are so slow,” said the raccoon to the turtle.

“I am very slow, but turtles have shells for protection. If an animal wanted to eat me, I could draw my head into my shell—like this—and he could not harm me.”



“Very interesting,” replied the raccoon, “but who would want to eat a small turtle as small as you?” It could not be denied that the turtle was very small.

The turtle replied from within his shell. “Why, I would make a perfect snack for an animal such as you. I happen to know that raccoons love to eat turtles. My mother taught me that lesson long ago.”

With that, the turtle plodded down the road at his usual unhurried pace, content with being slow but safe.

The raccoon stalked off, disgusted with himself at being outwitted by a turtle.

Name _____ Date _____

Turtle and Raccoon: Comprehension Questions

1. This story is an example of a *fable*. Fables are short stories with a moral. What would be an appropriate moral for this story?

2. Why do turtles have shells?

3. Why are turtles so slow?

4. How did the turtle know the raccoon wanted to eat him?

5. On a separate piece of paper, write a fable of your own. Include two animals in your fable, and end it with a moral.